

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of issuing a receipt redeemable for an award to a player of a gaming machine associated with a gaming system including one or more gaming machines comprising the steps of:

generating data regarding a player's activity associated with the play of said one or more gaming machines;

determining if said player is entitled to an award based upon the player's play activity data independent of the direct outcome of a specific game or games; and

generating said receipt at said gaming machine for redemption by said player for said award.

2. The method in accordance with Claim 1 including the step of transmitting said play activity data to a remote device.

3. The method in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said determining step comprises comparing said transmitted play activity data to predetermined criteria for awarding an award.

4. The method in accordance with Claim 1 including the step of transmitting data regarding a receipt to be printed from a remote device to said gaming machine.

5. The method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said generating step comprises the printing of said receipt and issuance of said receipt to said player.

6. A method of generating a receipt by a gaming machine having a controller and a receipt printer comprising the steps of:

inputting an instruction to said controller to generate a receipt;

generating data regarding the operational characteristics of said gaming machine in accordance with said instruction; and

generating a receipt having data associated therewith regarding said operational characteristics of said gaming machine.

7. The method in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said generated data comprises operational diagnosis information.

8. The method in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said generated data comprises accounting information.

9. The method in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said generated step comprises printing said receipt and issuing said receipt.

10. A gaming system comprising:

at least one gaming machine adapted to accept credit from a player, present a game for play by a player, and pay a winning in the event a winning event is achieved by play of the game;

at least one host with which said at least one gaming machine is associated, said at least one host arranged to receive information regarding player play from said at least one gaming machine,

to determine if an award should be issued for play by said player independent of whether the outcome of play of said game is a winning outcome, said at least one host arranged to transmit award information to said gaming machine; and

a receipt generator located at said gaming machine for issuing a receipt associated with said award in response to reward information being transmitted to said gaming machine from said at least one host.

11. The gaming system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said information regarding said player play comprises information regarding amounts bet by said player.

12. The gaming system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said information comprises information regarding the identity of said player.

13. The gaming system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said receipt is redeemable for a prize.

14. The gaming system in accordance with Claim 10 including a wireless communication link between said gaming machine and said at least one host.

15. A method of utilizing a receipt in a gaming system comprising:
providing at least one gaming machine, said gaming machine arranged to present at least one game for play by a player and print a receipt associated with an award based upon the player's play

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of one or more gaming machines associated with said gaming system;

awarding a reward if said player receives a winning outcome;

generating game play data associated with the player's play of said one or more gaming machines associated with said gaming system;

transmitting said game play data to a remote device associated with said gaming system;

determining if said player is entitled to a bonus award based upon said game play data;

transmitting bonus award information to a gaming machine played by said player;

issuing a receipt representative of said bonus award from said gaming machine;

accepting said receipt at a location remote from said gaming machine; and

providing said bonus award in redemption of said receipt.

16. The method in accordance with Claim 15 including at least one receipt validation station associated with said system and wherein said accepting step comprises accepting said receipt at said receipt validation station.

17. The method in accordance with Claim 15 including the step of transmitting information regarding said receipt from said receipt validation station to said remote device for validating said receipt.

18. The method in accordance with Claim 15 including the step of generating receipt information associated with a bonus award at said remote device.

19. A method of presenting game comprising:

accepting a wager from the player;

presenting a game to the player;

awarding said player a first award if said player receives a winning outcome playing said game;

generating a bonus award information at remote location;

transmitting said bonus award information to said gaming machine; and

issuing a receipt from said gaming machine redeemable from said award.

20. The method is in accordance with Claim 19 wherein said bonus award is non-monetary.